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- A study by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) indicates that 93% of women farmers who receive training alongside financial support succeed in their ventures, compared to the 57% success rate of those who receive financial aid alone.
- A study conducted across Rajasthan showed that with the income generated through dairying, 31% of the women had converted their mud houses to cement structures, while 39% had constructed concrete sheds for their cattle.
- The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) now organises farmer's orientation programmes across the country, under which women farmers are trained in scientific best practices on animal health, fodder quality, clean milk production, and accounts management.

CHALLENGES:

- Major challenge in this sector is information asymmetry among farmers.
- Statistics indicate that small and marginal farmers have access to only 50-70% of the resources that large and medium farmers have.



WOMEN FARMERS

- Women dairy farmers achievements can be traced back to White Revolution'.
- A majority of dairy farmers are small landholders - typically households with two to five cows is also a testament to the success of the dairy cooperatives models that were at the heart of Operation Flood.

- Recent years have seen the rise of women-led dairy Unions and companies.
- NDDB has played a proactive role in setting up women-led producer enterprises like Shreeja Mahila Milk Producer Company, which was started with 24 women and now has more than 90,000 members, with an annual turnover of approximately 450 crore
- Last year, Amul Dairy released a list of 10 women dairy farmers who became millionaires by selling milk to the company.
- Many of the women dairy farmers have not had a formal education, but through the process of dairying and working with larger collectives, such as milk unions and cooperatives, they have mastered the nuances of finance and marketing.

- The dairy cooperatives model approach made it possible to enhance backward and forward linkages in the dairy value chain.
- This model eliminated the middle man and guaranteed minimum procurement price for milk.

Fact Corner:

- As per the survey 1,90,000 dairy cooperative societies across the country, with approximately 6 million women members.
- This data clearly indicates their future as they can become leaders, as they are the head of some cooperatives.
- In many instances, it is the first step for women in breaking from traditional practices.
- Women have become the main breadwinner in their family with the income they earn through dairy farming.
- Cooperatives and milk unions plays a significant role in enhancing the knowledge and bargaining power of women.
- Innovation in organisational structures has also spurred consistent growth in this sector